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2325 E. 95th St.
Cleveland 6, Ohio
April 11, 1945

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I hope you will find sufficient merit in the attached suggestion to recommend to your distinguished husband that he proclaim a "Good Neighbor Week".

Friendship is the one commodity which cannot be bought with money. Real friendship expresses itself through acts or deeds which, in themselves, prove the interest that one has in the other. Mere words, however beautiful they sound and look in print, will not suffice.

Very truly yours,
Rosal. Q. Carrole

GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK

A direct index of the success of our "Good Neighbor Policy" abroad is the extent to which our good neighborliness is practiced here at home. When measured by this yardstick you can begin to appreciate why some reports from some sources haven't been as encouraging as they might have been. We can demonstrate the fact that we believe in the "Good Neighbor Policy" only by living more neighborly here at home. Have we devoted much attention to this side of it? I believe we have done very little compared with what we could have done.

The Bible tells us that it is impossible to "get the ^h moat" out of the other fellow's eye when there is a ["]beam["] in our own. Then, "he who would have friends must first be friendly". The disparity between what we say and what we do is daily growing more alarming.

Right now our nation has the opportunity to lead the world as no nation has ever had before. Are we going to let that opportunity crash on the shoals of racial and religious bigotry and hatreds? Now is the time for the intelligence in all groups - white and colored alike - to be applied to laying the real foundation for harmonious living here in our own dear U. S. A. in order to save her (our country) the chaos to which she is otherwise heading.

To get the rank and file of the masses more "Good Neighbor" conscious why not designate a week and call it "Good Neighbor Week"? During this week the emphasis would be placed on doing things which show that we are "Good Neighbors". Some speech-making, of course, would be necessary. All Churches could be asked to build their programs so that they would center around this theme - "Good Neighbors". Churches could open their pews to all people for that

week (a policy which should be followed every day and week if our Bible is true). Newspapers, the radio and news reels could be of inestimable value in "pointing up" the program by devoting their space to the idea, carrying pictures of all groups showing all of us working and living together harmoniously. Pictures of Negro soldiers could be profusely shown as they make their contributions to our mutual war effort. In the same way, home front pictures could show all groups working together harmoniously in production.

Schools, public and private institutions of learning, could easily find a multitude of novel ways in which to demonstrate "good neighborliness". (It has always appeared to me that the schools should be the seats of training for harmonious democratic living.) The only way to teach democracy is through living democratically. When one fails to put into practice the things he swears he believes in he makes himself liable to be held up as a hypocrite.

That week in industry could be emphasized by putting forth an effort to have workers become better acquainted with each other. Each worker might be asked to wear his name prominently displayed so that other workers might address him by it. Workers would not only take their place in line as they arrive to be served in their cafeterias; they would also seat themselves in the same manner. The cafeteria could be filled, starting at one end or section, in this manner. In this way, a worker would in all probability find himself seated next to or between different people at each meal. This would afford an opportunity to widen his acquaintance and probably start developing new friendships. All types of social groups might invite representatives of other groups to visit with them

during that week. Some families could invite other individuals or groups to their homes for an evening.

Mr. Frederick Ulman, Jr., President of Pathe News could be asked to present a newsreel showing people -- all of us, white and colored alike -- living, working and fighting together in his "This is America" series. These pictures could be shown to all our armed forces and throughout the length and breadth of our land, especially in those sections of our country most affected by segregation, Jim Crow and discrimination. Many of the people in those blighted areas (and such areas are not all below the Mason and Dixon line) never get out to see what's going on in some other sections of our country. As a result, they think their antiquated and stereotyped reactions to racial and religious matters are generally approved. They have not the vision to see that they are hanging a millstone around the necks of all Americans.

The week could end by the community sponsoring a "Good Neighbors Mass Meeting" where the week's activities could be summarized. All people could be urged to make this neighborliness not only an aim for a week, but a continuous aim of our every day existence.

These are but a few suggestions as to the activities which might properly be sponsored during "Good Neighbor Week". The only ^{limiting} factor concerning such activities would be the imaginations, ingenuity, the courage and resourcefulness ~~for~~ the particular community involved.

By this means, the masses of people would begin to become "Good Neighbor" conscious. It would ~~then~~ become a much easier

problem to spread our democracy around to each and every segment of our population, thereby creating real national unity and erasing the cause of the growing restlessness throughout our country and materially raising our moral standards in the eyes of the World. At present, many peoples, including some of our allies, ~~have~~^{do not} our sincerity as we approach the problem of the peace. ~~with grave doubt.~~

We are spending billions of dollars and thousands of lives for our ideals of democracy. Why not make some meagre sacrifice to lay the foundation for real honest-to-goodness harmonious living?

This is our greatest duty to posterity. Are we Americans big enough to accept the greatest challenge our country has ever faced? Now is the time! Tomorrow may be too late.

By
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